



A Publication of the

TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN



January 2013

Efforts to Curb Violence Against Women Could Save Southeast TN Millions

Violence against women costs Chattanooga and Hamilton County well over \$3.6 million annually in direct community costs alone, according to testimony offered at a recent hearing convened by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. Local experts and officials met January 18th at the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Room to discuss the economic impact of violence against women, and testified that businesses, hospitals, court systems and the public incur tremendous costs as a result of preventable crimes like sexual assault, human trafficking and domestic violence: crimes that are reported as little as 60 percent of the time, suggesting that the \$3.6 million in cited costs only scratches the surface.

...Continued on Page 3



Left to Right: TECW Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Chairwoman Yvonne Wood, TECW Vice Chair and Chattanooga Hearing Chair Carol Berz, TECW Members Veronica Marable Johnson and Dr. Dena Wise convene the first VAW Hearing.

Message from Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks



Dear Colleagues,

January has arrived with the roar of a lion for the Council staff and we are excited about the opportunities before us. You will notice the new seal on this revised look of our newsletter; we are thrilled to celebrate the 15th year of the Economic Council. Congratulations to all of its supporters for one and a half decades of advocacy and growth.

During this capstone year, we are moving steadfastly ahead with two signature projects: the Violence Against Women Study and the Women & Work Project. We held our inaugural hearing on violence against women in Chattanooga on January 18, and thanks to the planning of Hearing Chairwoman Carol Berz, heard insightful testimony in the fields of healthcare, law enforcement, social services and business. With this event, we have only begun to reveal the true nature of this terrible, and preventable, cost to our state.

As part of our Women & Work Project, the Council recently met with Tennessee's Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty and Assistant Commissioner Alice Rolli, who presented on the services and programs offered by the agency. Once launched later this year, the Women & Work Project will be an ever-evolving resource housed at the TECW's website (www.tennesseeewomen.org) and will offer comprehensive workforce and entrepreneurship resources for women.

A new slate of TECW officers was also elected recently; congratulations to the officers and my thanks for your time and energy on behalf of the Economic Council.

As you can see, there is a lot to be done, and we are eager to proceed.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phyllis".

Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Ed.D.
Executive Director

In This Issue...

Violence Against Women Hearing—Chattanooga	1
Message From The Executive Director	1
Women & Work Project Takes Shape for 2013	2
2013 TECW Officers Elected	2
...Violence Against Women Continued	3
TECW Calendar	3
Upcoming VAW Hearing Locations and Dates	4



TECW Teams With TN Development Department on Women & Work




Left to Right: Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Vice-Chair Elliott Moore, Kristi Stanley, Dr. Carol Danehower, Veronica Marable Johnson, ECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty, Dr. Mimi Barnard, Janis Sontany, Chairwoman Yvonne Wood, Kathleen Walker, Dr. Janet Smith, Commissioner Susan Whittaker, Wisty Pender, Deborah Clubb, Assistant Commissioner Alice Rolli

Members of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women (TECW) and the Women's Economic Council Foundation (WECF) met in early January to discuss the Council's upcoming projects dealing with workforce development for women and violence against women. They were

joined by Commissioner Bill Hagerty of the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, Assistant Commissioner Alice Rolli, and Business Enterprise Resource Office Director Wisty Pender to discuss the state's ongoing job creation, investment and economic development programs, and to better understand

how the TECW can act as a resource for female job seekers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

The discussion also included summaries of Tennessee's Trade Director Academy, the Film Commission incentive program (of which the ABC television drama, Nashville, is a beneficiary) and the new branding of Chattanooga as "Gig City," in reference to the recent installation of a city-wide fiber-optic cable network that is capable of gigabyte-per-second transfer speeds – making Chattanooga the first city in the Western Hemisphere with this high tech upgrade. The TECW particularly shares in this excitement because one of its own members, Dr. Carol Berz, is also a Councilwoman in Chattanooga and was very involved in the network's development.

At the meeting members also continued preparation for the TECW's Violence Against Women Hearing Tour, which began in Chattanooga on January 18th, and elected new officers for 2013—both stories can be found in this month's newsletter! 

Tennessee Economic Council on Women Elects Officers for 2013

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women, elected officers at its Winter Meeting on January 4.

The 21-member board is made up of accomplished women and one man from across the state. The Tennessee Economic Council on Women, a state agency, was established by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1998 to conduct research on issues affecting women from an economic perspective. The Council celebrates its 15th anniversary this year and meets quarterly.

The newly elected officers include:

- ♦ **Chair.....Yvonne Wood**
Owner, Wood Conference & Event Planning
Greater Nashville Development District, Lebanon
- ♦ **Vice Chair.....Carol Berz**
CEO, Private Dispute Resolution Services
Southeast Development District, Chattanooga
- ♦ **Treasurer.....Jane Powers**
Attorney, Powers Law Firm
Upper Cumberland Development District, Crossville
- ♦ **Secretary...Kathleen Armour Walker**
President/Owner, Tennessee Pewter Company
Southwest TN Development District, Brownsville


- ♦ **West Tennessee Representative.....Karen Camper**
Member Tennessee General Assembly, Owner, Key II Entertainment, Women's Legislative Caucus Representative, Memphis
- ♦ **Middle Tennessee Representative.....Janet Smith**
President, Columbia State Community College
South Central Development District, Columbia
- ♦ **East Tennessee Representative.....Ruby Miller**
Agent, State Farm Insurance
At-Large Women's Group, Oak Ridge

"I am pleased at the confidence the Council members have shown in me by electing me to a second term," said Yvonne Wood. "I look forward to serving with renewed tenacity and vision for the future with the programs we have in place this year."



Dr. Mimi Barnard

Dr. Mimi Barnard, was recently appointed to the Board to represent independent colleges and institutions. Dr. Barnard is an administrator at Belmont University.

"It is an honor to serve on the Council Board with such distinguished individuals, who work tirelessly to help women attain economic autonomy for the betterment of women, children and families," added Wood. 

Violence Against Women ...Continued from Page 1

Law enforcement, business owners, healthcare providers and social services present financial argument to enhance prevention and change culture around domestic and sexual violence

...Continued from Page 1

In addition to those annual costs, which do not include the value of volunteered time or expenses incurred by victims themselves, Dr. Steven Coulter, President of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee's Health Institute, shared estimates that domestic violence, alone, costs commercial health insurance members an additional \$7 per member per month in higher premiums, and has a comparable impact on Medicaid costs. This amounts to an additional \$28 in health insurance premiums paid each month by a family of four, for example, due simply to the existence and resultant costs of domestic violence.

Particularly in the area of human trafficking, statewide awareness is still emerging and advocates are playing catch up, said Jerry Redman, Managing Partner at Second Life Chattanooga. Redman testified that the financial cost to the public to rescue, treat, protect and shelter local human trafficking vic-

merce testified that the local economy is estimated to suffer an annual hit of more than \$370,000 from the loss of productivity due to domestic violence alone. "While domestic violence occurs at home, it is expressed in the workplace," said Harr, who also discussed the costs of providing workplace security and cited lawsuits resulting from inadequate security that averaged \$1.2 million in a 1994 study (\$1.8 million in 2012 dollars).

Other expenses reported include \$630,000 or more to operate just one local domestic violence shelter, at least \$400,000 each year to address the most immediate needs of sexual assault and rape victims, another \$400,000 just for domestic violence-related prosecution costs in the office of Hamilton County Attorney General Bill Cox, and well over \$350,000 in court costs related to domestic violence in the area. The figure also omits the \$1.25 million that it costs to incarcerate just one domestic violence abuser convicted of first degree murder (96 Tennessee women were murdered by an intimate partner in 2011).

"We have done an initial tally of the costs consequential to these crimes and are becoming aware that the real figures are so much more," said TECW Chattanooga Hearing Chair and Chattanooga City Councilwoman Carol Berz. "We know that there is a lack of coordinated reporting of these crimes and therefore the figures are incomplete. There is a need to fund preventative programs that not only save taxpayer dollars spent on treatment but also prevent future victimization."

More than one hundred members of the public attended the first of nine statewide hearings, which was convened by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, and hosted by BlueCross Blue Shield of Tennessee.



More than one hundred members of the public were in attendance.

tims at current under-reported rates begins at \$827,000 and is likely as much as \$1.2 or \$1.5 million when considering both adult and minor victims. These numbers, Redman notes, are limited to immediate needs and do not consider costs like job training or remedial education that these victims often need later.

Ron Harr, President and CEO of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Com-

Upcoming 2013 Events

March 18, 2013

**Violence Against Women
Hearing - Columbia State
Community College**

May 17, 2013

**Spring Quarterly Meeting
Nashville**

June 6, 2013

**Violence Against Women
Hearing - Nashville YWCA**

June 14, 2013

**East Tennessee Women's
Leadership Conference
Knoxville**

August 16, 2013


TECW Annual Retreat

August 17, 2013

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Revised: October 27-28, 2013
**10th Annual Economic Summit
for Women-Nashville**

Revised: October 29, 2013
Fall Quarterly Meeting

 Please find a listing of the VAW Tour's upcoming dates and locations on the reverse.



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Tennessee**

***We thank BlueCross BlueShield
of Tennessee for hosting the
Chattanooga VAW Hearing, and
for its commitment to women.***



TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN



2013 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HEARINGS

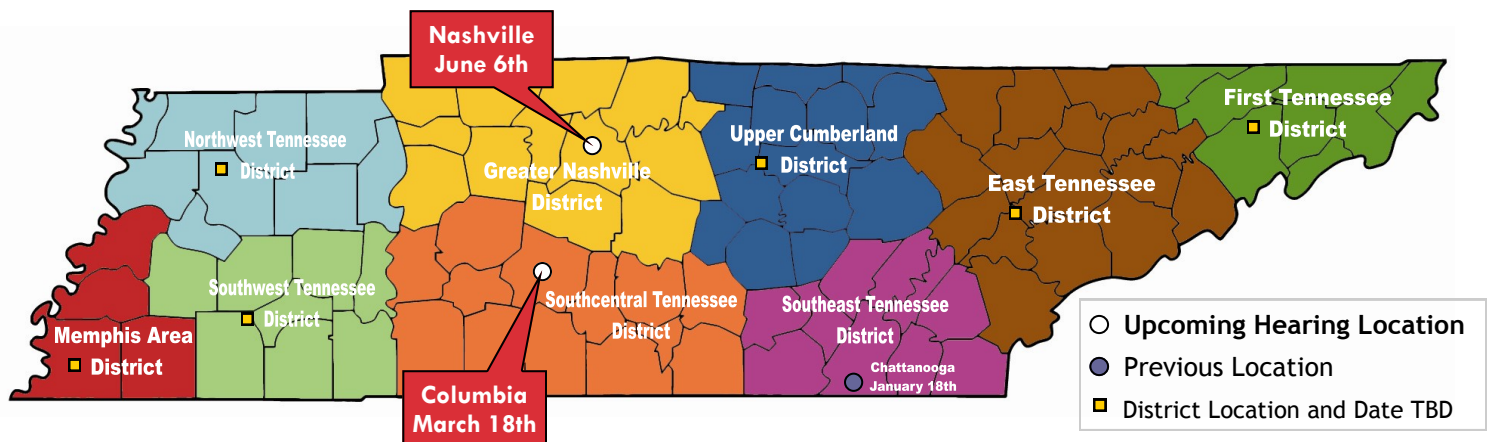
The Tennessee Economic Council on Women will convene nine public hearings in 2013 to explore *the economic impact of violence against women in Tennessee*. From law enforcement and court costs to healthcare, social services and business concerns, violence perpetrated against women is costing Tennesseans millions, and the Council's efforts will better define that expense for use by leaders, policymakers, and advocates statewide.

Columbia State Community College March 18, 2013

Columbia, Tennessee
South Central Development District Hearing
Dr. Janet Smith, Chair

Nashville YWCA June 6, 2013

Nashville, Tennessee
Nashville General Area Development District
Yvonne Wood, Chair



Upcoming Locations

- Dates Coming Soon -

First Tennessee Development District
Elliot Moore, Chair

Upper Cumberland Development District
Jane Powers, Chair

Southwest Tennessee Development District
Kathleen Walker, Chair

East Tennessee Development District
Ann Ayers-Colvin & Dena Wise, Co-Chairs

Northwest Tennessee Development District
Shawn Francisco & Carol Danehower, Co-Chairs

Memphis Area Development District
Kristi Stanley & Deborah Clubb, Co-Chairs

To participate in future hearings, or if you would like to be informed of updates as planning continues, please contact the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at 615-253-4266 or info.ecw@tn.gov



A Study by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women
Snodgrass Tower | 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37243 | (615) 253-4266
www.tennesseewomen.org